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STUDIES IN THE HISTORY OF BOOKS AND THE BOOK TRADE

by

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Published books and papers

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PREFACE

The books and papers offered in this submission are concerned with the history of books and the book trade. Three papers (nos. 1, 2, 3*) offer a theoretical and conceptual framework for historical studies of the book. In essence, it is argued that since the book is a societal object it can only be understood in a societal context. Consequently historical studies of books are concerned with far more than physical bibliography, important as that is. The writing, publishing and reading of books are activities which develop out of, and influence the further development of, political and economic systems. The political context of publishing and its legal status is of central concern to the book historian (nos. 12, 14, 15); so too are the mechanisms of sale and distribution (nos. 9, 10, 11, 16) and the relationships between the author who is the primary producer, and the publisher who provides his commercial link with the reader (no. 13).

More specifically, the central group of works is concerned with the provincial book trade in 18th-century England. The general study (no. 8) is a wide-ranging survey, largely based on primary sources, of the development and operation of the complex systems which allowed the printed word to permeate English society at every level and in every part of the country between 1700 and 1800. Shorter studies consider some more detailed aspects of the

* The numbers refer to the List of Works Submitted on pp. iv-v.

same subject (nos. 4, 6, 7) and survey previous work in the field
(no. 5).

LIST OF WORKS SUBMITTED

General studies

1. Cross-channel currents: historical bibliography and l'histoire du livre. The Library, 6th ser., 2 (1980), 1-15
2. The history of books as a field of study: a review essay. Journal of Library History, 17 (1982), 463-67.
3. The commerce of letters: the study of the eighteenth-century book trade. Eighteenth-century studies, 17 (1984), 405-24.

The English provincial book trade

4. Country book trade apprentices 1710-1760. Publishing History, 9 (1979), 85-99.
- * 5. The English provincial book trade to 1850. A checklist of secondary sources. Oxford: Oxford Bibliographical Society, occasional publication no. 16, 1981.
6. The merchants of culture: bookselling in early industrial England. Studies on Voltaire and the eighteenth century, 217 (1983), 11-21.
7. John Clay of Daventry: the business of an eighteenth-century stationer. Studies in Bibliography, 37 (1984), 198-209.
- * 8. The provincial book trade in eighteenth-century England. Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 1985.

* These items are separately bound.

The political and economic history of books

9. English books on sale in Rotterdam in 1693. Quaerendo, 6 (1976), 365-73.
10. John Walter and the Logographic Press. Publishing History, 1 (1977), 92-134.
11. The publication of James Harrington's Commonwealth of Oceana. The Library, 5th ser., 32 (1977), 262-68.
12. The book trade in politics: the making of the Copyright Act of 1710. Publishing History, 8 (1980), 19-44.
13. John Nourse and his authors. Studies in Bibliography, 34 (1981), 30-44.
14. The English book trade and the law 1695-1799. Publishing History, 12 (1983), 51-75.
15. From censorship to copyright: aspects of the government's role in the English book trade 1695-1775. In: Kenneth E. Carpenter, ed. Books and libraries in history and society New York: Bowker, 1983, 173-98.
16. English book prospectuses. An illustrated history. Newton, Pa.: The Bird and Bull Press, 1984.